

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 334 – SB 777**

February 19, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires eligible individuals applying for or renewing a driver license or photo identification to be automatically registered to vote, unless the person declines registration by checking a box indicating their refusal.

Designates all state departments and agencies, in addition to offices in the state that provide public assistance, as voter registration agencies.

Requires voter registration agencies to maintain voter registration declinations completed by their clientele.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$600,000/One-Time  
\$100,000/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, the Department of Safety (DOS) includes a voter registration application as part of any motor vehicle driver or photo identification license application, and such applications offer individuals the option to decline to register to vote.
- The proposed language would automatically register any person applying for a motor vehicle driver or photo identification license to vote, unless they indicate otherwise utilizing a box on the application stating, "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THIS BOX, AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO VOTE USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION."
- Currently, there is no additional room to add the required statement to the printed driver license application form.
- Based on information provided by DOS, to replace the driver license applications outside of the normal order cycle will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$225,000.
- According to information provided by DOS, and confirmed by the third-party contract vendor responsible for the driver license system, the cost to perform a system modification to integrate voter registration of driver license duplicates and renewals and

changes of addresses at kiosks and electronic tablets is estimated to result in a one-time state expenditure of \$275,000.

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, the DOS is required to provide voter registration applications to county election commissions. Under the provisions of this legislation, DOS is authorized to continue providing these electronically; as a result, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures for providing such notifications to county election commissions.
- This legislation designates all state departments and agencies voter registration agencies.
- Currently state offices that provide public assistance are designated voter registration offices.
- It is assumed that all state departments and agencies will be required to provide voter registration.
- According to the DOS, there are six state departments or agencies which currently offer voter registration with their applications for services.
- There are a total of 39 state departments and agencies.
- There are 33 departments or agencies (39 – 6) which will now need offer voter registration with their applications for services as a result of this legislation.
- Due to time constraints, the appropriate state agency responsible for providing applications for voter registration and declination forms cannot be reached; therefore, the exact costs to provide such applications and forms, as well as provide any necessary training, cannot be ascertained.
- It is assumed that the cost to provide such forms and applications, as well as provide any necessary training will result in one-time increase in state expenditures of \$100,000 statewide and a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$100,000.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures under this legislation is estimated to be \$600,000, all being incurred in FY19-20 (\$225,000 in printed applications + \$275,000 in the driver license system modifications + \$100,000 statewide department and agency voter registration).

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb